

Remarks:

New claims 17-50 are added. Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have expressly argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at 301-601-7252. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

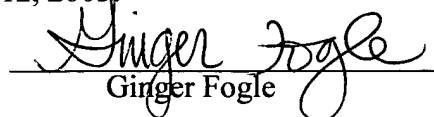
Date: 12-12-2003



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 12, 2003.


Ginger Fogle